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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

[Pharmacia May Pursue Insurers for PCB 'Food Chain' Claims](#)

By Peter Hayes

Posted May 13, 2019, 11:37 AM

Pharmacia LLC may proceed with insurance coverage claims stemming from hundreds of cancer suits alleging exposure to PCBs in food, the Eastern District of Texas said.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

[EPA Seeks CHPAC's Help With Crafting Health Risk Communication Policy](#)

EPA is asking its Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) to help with crafting a policy to ensure the agency communicates consistently about environmental and public health risks, prompting mixed reactions from committee members who say the Trump administration is still failing to take full advantage of the panel's expertise.

[Republicans See Possibility Of Compromise On Bill Restricting Asbestos](#)

Top House Republicans say they could agree to a compromise with Democrats on a bill to limit asbestos risks, though they say any deal will have to address concerns that a bill does not unduly limit production of chlorine used to treat drinking water and does not impose infeasible testing and other requirements on EPA.

[Democrats Grill Toxics Chief Over EPA's Narrowed TSCA Review Of Asbestos](#)

House Democrats grilled EPA toxics chief Alexandra Dunn over the agency's narrow approach to addressing risks of asbestos, though Dunn declined comment on a pair of leaked internal memos regional staff wrote raising concerns about the agency's approaches and underscoring concerns raised by environmentalists and others.

[Industry Raises Fears Over EPA's Asbestos Shift But Largely Backs SNUR](#)

Industry lawyers who represent chemical and other industries are generally backing EPA's recently expanded significant new use rule (SNUR) governing legacy uses of asbestos, though like environmentalists, some industry attorneys are raising concerns that EPA has shifted certain uses from a related evaluation of ongoing uses to the SNUR.

[House, Senate lawmakers introduce flurry of PFAS bills](#)

The bipartisan bills from House and Senate lawmakers attempt to mandate toxic release reporting and federal facility cleanups of the chemicals and bar incineration of PFAS waste.

[EPA reopens comment period on 'citizen science' ICR after pushback](#)

The agency will reopen for 30 days the comment period on its proposed renewal of an information collection request for "citizen science" after the fertilizer industry raised strong objections to the plan.

[Environmental Lawsuits May Aid Workers Targeting Chemical Exposures](#)

A labor union attorney says environmental statutes' citizen suit provisions could give workers a powerful tool in their fight to reduce their exposures to hazardous chemicals, because laws such as the Clean Air Act impose much greater penalties for violations that increase exposures compared to workplace safety statutes.

[Rep. Kildee, Key Task Force Leader, Details Path For Advancing PFAS Bills](#)

On the eve of a key legislative hearing, Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI), the Democratic co-chair of a bipartisan task force aimed at addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), is detailing the path he and other lawmakers plan to take to advance PFAS legislation in the House though their effort still likely faces a rocky path.

EPA Could Address Blood-Lead Level Rise In Next Update To Action Plan

EPA's toxics chief Alexandra Dunn says the agency's next update to the Trump administration's action plan on reducing lead exposures could address data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that shows children most exposed to lead have recently seen increases in their blood lead levels (BLLs).

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

TSCA inventory: Inactive designations take effect 5 August

13 May 2019 / Substance notification & inventories, TSCA, United States

The US EPA has announced that the TSCA inventory 'inactive' substance designations will take effect from 5 August.

Beginning on that date, a substance listed on the inventory as 'inactive' will need to be notified through a Notice of Activity (NOA) Form B before a company can manufacture, import or process it for a non-exempt purpose.

The agency announced the effective date in a pre-publication *Federal Register* notice, emailed to stakeholders on 9 May. In it, the agency indicated the availability of a memorandum signed by Administrator Andrew Wheeler on 6 May officially beginning the 90-day period between the identification of inactive substances and their designation as such.

The agency said this announcement is a "companion" to the first version of the TSCA inventory published with active and inactive designations. Released on 19 February, the updated inventory is the result of the TSCA inventory notification (inventory reset) reporting exercise that ended in October 2018.

The updated inventory identifies as inactive 45,573 (53%) of the 86,228 chemicals on the TSCA inventory.

Related Articles

- EPA releases updated TSCA inventory
- US EPA sets TSCA 'inventory reset' rule in motion

Further Information:

- Federal Register (pre-publication)
- Signed memo

New Jersey asbestos-in-products ban becomes law

14 May 2019 / CMRs, US states

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has signed into law a bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of products containing asbestos.

The bill (A 4416) – which cleared the legislature with unanimous support in March – will authorise the state's Department of Environmental Protection to enter retail establishments to determine compliance. And it directs the agency to establish a "public education programme to assure the widespread dissemination of information concerning the prohibition".

Violators of the act face penalties of up to \$2,500 per offence.

Signed into law on 10 May, the prohibition takes effect on 1 September.

Further Information:

- [NJ bill lookup \(A 4416\)](#)
- [A4416 bill text](#)
- [NJ bills signed 10 May](#)

Commission to amend plastic food contact materials regulation

14 May 2019 / Europe, Food & drink, Food contact, Food contact Regulation 10/2011

The European Commission is planning to amend the Regulation on plastic food contact materials to reflect the authorisation of new substance poly((R)-3 -hydroxybutyrate -co-(R)-3-hydroxyhexanoate).

The amendment will modify Annex I of the Regulation, which includes a list of authorised monomers, other starting substances, macromolecules obtained from microbial fermentation, additives and polymer production aids.

The decision, triggered by a positive opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa) from January this year, extends the use of the substance. According to the Commission, it is now safe if "used either alone or blended with other polymers in contact with all foods under contact conditions":

- of six months or more at room temperature or below, including hot fill or short heating-up phases, provided that the migration of all oligomers with a molecular weight below 1,000 Da does not exceed 5.0 mg/kg food or food stimulant; and
- of less than six months at room temperature or below, including hot fill or short heating-up phases, provided the same conditions are met.

The amendment obliges businesses placing on the market the final article or material containing the substance to include in the supporting documentation a description of the method and a calibration sample if required by the method.

Furthermore, the Commission said that plastic materials and articles not in line with the new rules cannot be placed on the EU market 12 months after the entry into force of the Regulation.

The EU [notified](#) these changes to the WTO on 8 May this year. The proposed date for their application and adoption is

September, while the proposed date of entry into force is six months from the publication. The WTO commenting period closes on 7 July.

Related Articles

- [EU notifies WTO of food contact material Regulation updates](#)

Further Information:

- [EU Regulation](#)
- [WTO notification](#)

UK audit committee launches consumer survey on hazardous chemicals

14 May 2019 / REACH, Restricted substance lists, Retail, Substances of concern, UK

The UK's Environmental Audit Committee has launched a consumer survey to ascertain the level of public awareness and concern about the presence of harmful chemicals in everyday consumer products.

The survey is part of an [inquiry](#) the committee started in February to establish whether "ministers are doing enough" to protect public health and the environment from exposure to toxic chemicals in products such as furniture, food and toys.

The survey comprises 12 questions, including whether participants have sufficient knowledge about potentially harmful chemicals in products to make informed purchasing decisions, if more knowledge would change their purchasing behaviour and how information should be made available to them.

Among the issues the committee – part of the UK parliament – is addressing in the inquiry is how substances of very high concern (SVHC) should be regulated in the UK if and when it [leaves](#) the EU. The government promised to tackle chemicals "of national concern" in a 25-year environment [plan](#) released a year ago.

The first oral evidence [session](#) took place on 30 April, with witnesses including Rick Mumford, deputy director and head of science at the Food Standards Agency; Anna Stec from the centre for fire and hazards science at the University of Central Lancashire; and Michael Warhurst, executive director at the NGO CHEM Trust.

The next session, set for 14 May, will hear evidence from Daniel Kingdon, director of compliance and safety for EMEA at Amazon; Gemma Brierley, sustainability director, offer and supply chain at Kingfisher; Therese Lilliebladh, product requirements manager at IKEA in Sweden; and Jonathan Hindle, chairman of the British Furniture Confederation, among others.

Related Articles

- [UK audit committee launches inquiry into toxic chemicals](#)
- [Government urges industry to be ready for UK REACH](#)
- [UK promises post-Brexit chemicals strategy that reflects future relations with EU](#)
- [UK agency head grilled on hazardous chemicals controls in FCMs](#)

Further Information:

- [Survey](#)
- [Inquiry](#)

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OTHER ARTICLES

[Council Questions Bill To Ban Chemicals](#)

Jamestown Post Journal

State regulators would be tasked with compiling a list of potentially **harmful chemicals** and maintaining public records about the presence of those ...

[Jewelry Unsafe? Yes When Wrong Test Methods and Equipment Are Allowed](#)

Yahoo Finance

Citizens for Safe Consumer **Products**: Jewelry is only safe from **toxic Lead and Cadmium** if tested accurately. The Safe Jewelry Act SB647 is really the ...